

1 00:00:14:00 00:00:15:13 **PAMELA WARD, DEPUTY SENIOR COMMERCIAL OFFICER:**  
2 00:00:15:15 00:00:17:28 I'm a former Foreign Service Officer.  
3 00:00:18:00 00:00:20:06 I'm a former educator.  
4 00:00:20:08 00:00:27:03 My PhD is in educational psychology.  
5 00:00:27:05 00:00:29:10 I was a Regional Education Officer for the  
Office of  
6 00:00:29:12 00:00:31:13 Overseas Schools.  
7 00:00:31:15 00:00:33:11 I've done almost everything.  
8 00:00:33:13 00:00:35:20 I'm just really old.  
9 00:00:36:06 00:00:39:16 Anyway, we have with us, I'm happy to say,  
some of  
10 00:00:39:18 00:00:41:25 my former colleagues.  
11 00:00:41:27 00:00:44:07 Kris Grasso, who's sitting next to Bill back  
there:  
12 00:00:44:09 00:00:49:18 Kris is a very important person because  
she is the  
13 00:00:49:20 00:00:53:25 Resources Coordinator for the Office of  
Overseas Schools.  
14 00:00:53:27 00:00:58:03 She is the one who is available in Washington  
15 00:00:58:05 00:00:59:06 all the time.  
16 00:00:59:29 00:01:03:19 There are six individuals, including Connie  
Buford,  
17 00:01:03:21 00:01:06:26 who just stepped out for a minute, and I'll  
introduce  
18 00:01:06:28 00:01:10:11 her when she comes back in, who are Regional  
19 00:01:10:13 00:01:11:26 Educational Officers.  
20 00:01:11:28 00:01:18:01 They're senior educators who travel the  
world and  
21 00:01:18:03 00:01:22:03 look at schools at various posts.  
22 00:01:22:05 00:01:25:18 Now, the Foreign Service, or the State  
Department,  
23 00:01:25:20 00:01:27:17 starting out with the State Department...and  
I  
24 00:01:27:19 00:01:30:03 want to say something in a minute about  
those of you  
25 00:01:30:05 00:01:32:06 who are from other agencies.  
26 00:01:32:08 00:01:34:06 And I'm really glad you're here.  
27 00:01:35:12 00:01:38:10 But in the 1960s, the State Department  
decided  
28 00:01:38:12 00:01:43:02 they needed to work with the issue of how  
do  
29 00:01:43:04 00:01:45:07 Foreign Service Officers educate their  
children  
30 00:01:45:09 00:01:47:23 when they're assigned abroad.  
31 00:01:47:25 00:01:50:15 Now, the Department of Defense has its own  
school system,  
32 00:01:50:17 00:01:53:02 as some of you may know.  
33 00:01:53:04 00:01:55:24 Department of Defense schools are limited to  
34 00:01:55:26 00:01:58:05 youngsters who are American, almost all  
from  
35 00:01:58:07 00:02:00:23 the military.  
36 00:02:00:25 00:02:03:02 But it was decided that those of us who chose  
37 00:02:03:04 00:02:06:25 Foreign Service careers would rather have our  
38 00:02:06:27 00:02:10:11 children going to school with kids from  
all over  
39 00:02:10:13 00:02:11:22 the world.  
40 00:02:11:24 00:02:15:11 And so, instead of having a school system,

a

41 00:02:15:13 00:02:19:21 decision could have been made to have a  
parallel  
42 00:02:19:23 00:02:23:22 system to the DoD system or simply fall-in  
with the  
43 00:02:23:24 00:02:26:05 DoD system and then establish small schools  
in  
44 00:02:26:07 00:02:28:29 places where DoD didn't have a presence.  
45 00:02:29:01 00:02:31:19 But instead of that, it was decided that we  
would  
46 00:02:31:21 00:02:36:01 work with international schools all over the  
world.  
47 00:02:36:03 00:02:38:22 These would be English-speaking schools,  
48 00:02:38:24 00:02:42:00 not necessarily American curriculum  
schools.  
49 00:02:42:02 00:02:45:24 Some of the schools that we assist are  
British  
50 00:02:45:26 00:02:48:16 curriculums and many of them are International  
51 00:02:48:18 00:02:51:27 Baccalaureate, which you may be familiar  
with.  
52 00:02:51:29 00:02:55:28 These schools would receive grants from the  
U.S. government  
53 00:02:56:00 00:03:03:09 to expand their facilities or provide  
54 00:03:03:11 00:03:08:08 teacher training, or for many, many myriad  
of purposes.  
55 00:03:08:10 00:03:13:13 These schools would be overseen in an indirect  
56 00:03:13:15 00:03:17:11 way, in a supportive way, by the Regional  
Education Officers.  
57 00:03:17:13 00:03:20:09 The Regional Education Officers spend most of  
58 00:03:20:11 00:03:24:05 their year visiting a certain section of the  
world.  
59 00:03:24:07 00:03:25:13 Connie, would you wave?  
60 00:03:25:15 00:03:28:16 That's Connie Buford in the back, who is the  
61 00:03:28:18 00:03:33:11 Regional Education Officer for the East Asia  
Pacific Region.  
62 00:03:33:13 00:03:39:03 And this afternoon, we'll have at least one  
more REO here.  
63 00:03:39:05 00:03:45:05 The role of the Regional Education Officer  
is to  
64 00:03:45:07 00:03:49:23 assess the availability of educational  
resources at  
65 00:03:49:25 00:03:54:01 particular posts, diplomatic posts, around the  
world.  
66 00:03:54:03 00:03:58:27 These schools that we assist, we make a  
decision  
67 00:03:58:29 00:04:02:04 to give them a grant if it's believed that they  
68 00:04:02:06 00:04:07:26 provide an adequate education for young  
people  
69 00:04:07:28 00:04:11:18 who are going with their families to  
various posts  
70 00:04:11:20 00:04:13:15 around the world.  
71 00:04:13:17 00:04:16:16 And we gather information about the  
schools.  
72 00:04:16:18 00:04:18:13 We support organizations that...regional  
organizations  
73 00:04:18:15 00:04:24:22 that keep the school people together.  
74 00:04:24:24 00:04:27:24 And we provide, on the other side of the

75 00:04:27:26 00:04:31:14 spectrum, we provide information for parents  
 76 00:04:31:16 00:04:35:05 about what is available in a certain post.  
 77 00:04:35:07 00:04:37:13 When we go to a post...and I say "we."  
 78 00:04:37:15 00:04:39:16 I retired two and a half years ago and I,  
 you know,  
 79 00:04:39:18 00:04:43:16 I still feel very much affiliated with the  
 office.  
 80 00:04:43:18 00:04:48:02 We visit not only the assisted school, but  
 other  
 81 00:04:48:04 00:04:51:24 kinds of educational facilities that are  
 82 00:04:51:26 00:04:56:22 available in that community in that country.  
 83 00:04:56:24 00:05:02:08 The schools...the information about the  
 84 00:05:02:10 00:05:06:23 schools is then brought back and it is put  
 together.  
 85 00:05:06:25 00:05:10:21 And this is information that is on our website.  
 86 00:05:10:23 00:05:12:21 That's the Office of Overseas Schools.  
 87 00:05:12:23 00:05:13:21 Excuse me.  
 88 00:05:13:23 00:05:15:08 My lips, I think, are frozen.  
 89 00:05:15:10 00:05:17:13 The OfficeofOverseasSchools.gov,  
 90 00:05:17:15 00:05:18:13 Kris, is that right?  
 91 00:05:18:15 00:05:24:12 OOS.gov?  
 92 00:05:24:14 00:05:26:04 What is the website?  
 93 00:05:27:07 00:05:31:28 *(off microphone comments)*  
 94 00:05:32:00 00:05:36:01 **DR. WARD:** Do me a favor and come up and write  
 it up on the...  
 95 00:05:36:03 00:05:37:07 **KRISTIN GRASSO, OFFICE OF OVERSEAS SCHOOLS:**  
 96 00:05:37:09 00:05:38:19 It'll be on the brochures.  
 97 00:05:38:21 00:05:40:10 **DR. WARD:** Okay.  
 98 00:05:40:12 00:05:42:09 There's a lot of material which I'm going  
 to...we're  
 99 00:05:42:11 00:05:43:24 going to hand out this afternoon.  
 100 00:05:43:26 00:05:45:24 Kris has it.  
 101 00:05:45:26 00:05:47:08 But as a longtime teacher, I know that if  
 you give  
 102 00:05:47:10 00:05:49:20 people material, they'll be looking at the  
 material  
 103 00:05:49:22 00:05:51:18 and not listening to you.  
 104 00:05:51:20 00:05:54:26 So I have some of the material that I will  
 show  
 105 00:05:54:28 00:05:58:10 you and then you can have your own copies  
 this afternoon.  
 106 00:05:58:12 00:06:03:16 This is the most important.  
 107 00:06:03:18 00:06:06:16 This is one of those pieces that you should  
 flag.  
 108 00:06:06:18 00:06:11:18 When you move, I know you get rid of stuff.  
 109 00:06:11:20 00:06:13:18 However, this is something you should never  
 get rid of.  
 110 00:06:13:20 00:06:15:26 The reason is because it has the contact  
 information  
 111 00:06:15:28 00:06:20:23 for the Regional Education Officers,  
 112 00:06:20:25 00:06:23:27 the email addresses and phone numbers.  
 113 00:06:23:29 00:06:27:11 Now, as I said, we travel.  
 114 00:06:27:13 00:06:30:05 Regional Education Officers are on the  
 road  
 115 00:06:30:07 00:06:32:23 probably what...what do you say, Bill, about  
 116 00:06:32:25 00:06:34:20 six months out of the year?  
 117 00:06:34:22 00:06:36:27 However, we are always on email.

118 00:06:36:29 00:06:39:11 So I would suggest that you call.  
119 00:06:39:13 00:06:41:25 If you call the office, you probably will get  
Kris  
120 00:06:41:27 00:06:43:25 or some other knowledgeable person.  
121 00:06:43:27 00:06:47:02 But if you need to contact your Regional  
Education  
122 00:06:47:04 00:06:52:12 Officer, the email is the best way to do it.  
123 00:06:52:14 00:06:55:07 We have our blackberries by our side.  
124 00:06:55:28 00:07:00:13 Now, what do you do if you're coming into the  
125 00:07:00:15 00:07:03:08 Foreign Service with a special needs child?  
126 00:07:03:10 00:07:05:18 Well, the first thing you're going to do is  
127 00:07:05:20 00:07:09:13 you're going to talk with the Medical  
Division to...  
128 00:07:09:15 00:07:13:19 and bringing all of the documentation that  
you  
129 00:07:13:21 00:07:16:11 have regarding your child.  
130 00:07:16:13 00:07:18:22 I want to say a little bit about  
documentation later  
131 00:07:18:24 00:07:22:01 on because international schools...you  
should have  
132 00:07:22:03 00:07:24:14 different documentation for international  
schools  
133 00:07:24:16 00:07:27:13 than the IEPs that are churned out, because as  
134 00:07:27:15 00:07:32:28 Jim said previously, the international  
schools  
135 00:07:33:00 00:07:36:12 don't know what to make of the very complex  
IEPs that  
136 00:07:36:14 00:07:37:29 you may have for your children.  
137 00:07:39:07 00:07:46:10 So you go to MED and then you go to your  
assignments people.  
138 00:07:46:12 00:07:49:08 Now you may have decided that you want to  
do a  
139 00:07:49:10 00:07:52:05 tour, a first tour, that's unaccompanied,  
and your  
140 00:07:52:07 00:07:54:12 family will stay in the U.S.  
141 00:07:54:14 00:07:57:15 And, as was said earlier, if your family is  
going to  
142 00:07:57:17 00:08:02:20 remain in the U.S., then your children are  
expected  
143 00:08:02:22 00:08:07:13 to receive special education services from  
144 00:08:07:15 00:08:11:15 the school division in which they're living in  
the U.S.  
145 00:08:11:17 00:08:16:27 If you decide...if it's an unaccompanied  
posting and  
146 00:08:16:29 00:08:19:10 you are given an allowance to stay at  
another  
147 00:08:19:12 00:08:24:02 overseas post, then you'll get the regular  
school  
148 00:08:24:04 00:08:27:07 allowance or the special needs allowance,  
depending  
149 00:08:27:09 00:08:30:20 on whether...what kind of special needs your  
150 00:08:30:22 00:08:31:21 children have.  
151 00:08:31:23 00:08:37:29 The job of the Office of Overseas Schools  
is to  
152 00:08:38:01 00:08:42:17 help you identify places where there might  
be  
153 00:08:42:19 00:08:46:06 appropriate services for your children.

154 00:08:46:08 00:08:51:27 Now maybe your youngster needs a resource  
 room for  
 155 00:08:51:29 00:08:55:23 an hour a day to help with a reading problem.  
 156 00:08:55:25 00:08:57:23 Perhaps they need speech therapy.  
 157 00:08:57:25 00:08:59:28 We have two of our online speech therapists  
 here  
 158 00:09:00:02 00:09:01:21 with us today too.  
 159 00:09:01:23 00:09:04:26 And that can be...you can be assisted with  
 that.  
 160 00:09:04:28 00:09:09:03 Or maybe they have really profound needs  
 and you're  
 161 00:09:09:05 00:09:12:02 going to need an array of special services.  
 162 00:09:12:23 00:09:16:25 So the Office of Overseas Schools provides  
 you with  
 163 00:09:16:27 00:09:20:01 the information you're going to need to select  
 164 00:09:20:03 00:09:23:11 posts that are appropriate for you, whatever  
 your  
 165 00:09:23:13 00:09:27:09 family's decision is going to be.  
 166 00:09:27:11 00:09:30:14 But one of the things that you have to  
 remember about  
 167 00:09:30:16 00:09:34:21 the international schools is that they do  
 not have  
 168 00:09:34:23 00:09:38:19 programs, special education programs, like  
 169 00:09:38:21 00:09:40:19 we have in the United States.  
 170 00:09:40:21 00:09:45:11 There is no federal legislation that  
 applies  
 171 00:09:45:13 00:09:49:22 to international schools, even though they  
 have been  
 172 00:09:49:24 00:09:55:07 given grants by the U.S. government, or whether  
 U.S.  
 173 00:09:55:09 00:09:59:07 government children attend the schools and  
 tuition is  
 174 00:09:59:09 00:10:01:29 paid by the government.  
 175 00:10:02:01 00:10:03:28 They do not have any legal obligation.  
 176 00:10:04:00 00:10:06:20 And this has been tested in courts.  
 177 00:10:06:22 00:10:09:01 So, parents have taken this to court.  
 178 00:10:09:03 00:10:13:09 So we know that they do not have to provide the  
 services.  
 179 00:10:13:11 00:10:17:19 So, as was said earlier, the job that we  
 have in  
 180 00:10:17:21 00:10:20:14 the Office of Overseas Schools is to help you  
 181 00:10:20:16 00:10:23:11 find appropriate schools for your child  
 and, at the  
 182 00:10:23:13 00:10:28:15 same time, to support various efforts, to  
 183 00:10:28:17 00:10:32:23 encourage the schools that we assist  
 overseas and  
 184 00:10:32:25 00:10:37:14 other schools as well, to provide an array of  
 185 00:10:37:16 00:10:39:02 special education services.  
 186 00:10:39:04 00:10:43:14 And there are huge variation in various  
 places.  
 187 00:10:43:16 00:10:46:12 For example, in Brussels, they have a  
 complete  
 188 00:10:46:14 00:10:49:21 school-within-a-school for special education.  
 189 00:10:49:23 00:10:56:06 And Europe on the whole does not have very good  
 190 00:10:56:08 00:10:58:08 resources in terms of special education, at  
 191 00:10:58:10 00:10:59:22 least Western Europe.  
 192 00:10:59:24 00:11:01:23 But Brussels does.

193 00:11:01:25 00:11:05:09 London: people have done extremely well in  
 finding  
 194 00:11:05:11 00:11:08:08 great resources on the local economy, because  
 of  
 195 00:11:08:10 00:11:12:29 course you don't have the issue of language  
 in London.  
 196 00:11:13:01 00:11:15:29 So a number of people that have children with  
 197 00:11:16:01 00:11:20:18 profound and moderate special needs have  
 found  
 198 00:11:20:20 00:11:23:22 London to be a very good posting.  
 199 00:11:23:24 00:11:27:04 Canada, by and large, has some good options.  
 200 00:11:27:06 00:11:30:05 South Africa: I was just...a couple of you  
 201 00:11:30:07 00:11:32:05 said you were going to South Africa?  
 202 00:11:35:01 00:11:38:17 Three years ago, I took a consultant, who  
 was a very  
 203 00:11:38:19 00:11:41:08 experienced special education  
 administrator,  
 204 00:11:41:10 00:11:42:14 with me to South Africa.  
 205 00:11:42:16 00:11:43:29 I was the REO for Africa.  
 206 00:11:44:01 00:11:48:07 And she spent a week, while I worked at the  
 207 00:11:48:09 00:11:52:29 Embassy...she had a good time going around  
 in  
 208 00:11:53:01 00:11:55:19 Pretoria, Johannesburg, and looking at the  
 special  
 209 00:11:55:21 00:11:57:07 education resources.  
 210 00:11:57:09 00:12:00:19 There are a huge number of special education  
 211 00:12:00:21 00:12:04:03 resources in Johannesburg-Pretoria that are...  
 212 00:12:04:05 00:12:06:28 some of them are private.  
 213 00:12:07:00 00:12:11:03 Some of them are South African government.  
 214 00:12:11:05 00:12:15:08 You know, it's not always a perfect fit for  
 every  
 215 00:12:15:10 00:12:18:09 child with a certain diagnosis, but because  
 216 00:12:18:11 00:12:22:17 it's an English-speaking country, and  
 because they  
 217 00:12:22:19 00:12:25:16 have a high regard for providing services for  
 all  
 218 00:12:25:18 00:12:28:07 their youngsters, there really are some very  
 good  
 219 00:12:28:09 00:12:29:21 options in South Africa.  
 220 00:12:29:23 00:12:38:19 And that might not necessarily be an intuitive  
 choice.  
 221 00:12:40:05 00:12:43:25 The child needs to be accepted...your child,  
 222 00:12:43:27 00:12:46:29 if you hope that they will go to post with  
 you, they  
 223 00:12:47:01 00:12:51:09 need to be accepted by a school.  
 224 00:12:51:11 00:12:56:25 Or find an educational program that is putting  
 225 00:12:56:27 00:12:59:22 together a variety of programs that is  
 226 00:12:59:24 00:13:02:10 acceptable to the Medical Division.  
 227 00:13:02:12 00:13:06:10 And sometimes that might be using the  
 local  
 228 00:13:06:12 00:13:10:10 assisted school and perhaps adding online  
 229 00:13:10:12 00:13:12:01 speech therapy.  
 230 00:13:12:03 00:13:17:07 Perhaps using a variety of local resources.  
 231 00:13:17:19 00:13:19:09 I was in Jordan not long ago.  
 232 00:13:19:11 00:13:23:28 And two schools were...a Jordanian school  
 and the  
 233 00:13:24:00 00:13:28:01 American school were planning on

cooperating,

234 00:13:28:03 00:13:31:20 developing a cooperative program, for youngsters

235 00:13:31:22 00:13:34:24 with special needs, where the special needs

236 00:13:34:26 00:13:37:18 youngsters would be partially...a part-day in

237 00:13:37:20 00:13:41:05 a school for only special needs kids and then go to

238 00:13:41:07 00:13:43:05 the American school for the other part of the day,

239 00:13:43:07 00:13:44:05 an inclusion.

240 00:13:44:22 00:13:47:04 Now this is creative and this is what we want to

241 00:13:47:06 00:13:51:16 see from the international schools that we assist and

242 00:13:51:18 00:13:53:17 we support overseas.

243 00:13:53:19 00:13:56:03 We want to see creativity.

244 00:13:56:05 00:13:58:14 We know that they are not as big as Fairfax County

245 00:13:58:16 00:14:03:07 and they cannot offer a huge plan, but with

246 00:14:03:09 00:14:05:24 parents, Office of Overseas Schools, and MED

247 00:14:05:26 00:14:10:21 working together, we can find a way that most

248 00:14:10:23 00:14:15:20 families can take their youngsters with special

249 00:14:15:22 00:14:20:02 education needs overseas and be very confident that

250 00:14:20:04 00:14:23:12 the child is going to receive very, very adequate,

251 00:14:23:14 00:14:27:13 and sometimes better than in the U.S., services.

252 00:14:27:15 00:14:28:28 And that may be surprising, but having

253 00:14:29:00 00:14:33:08 visited all of the schools in Sub-Saharan Africa that

254 00:14:33:10 00:14:36:03 we assist through our office, we found that the

255 00:14:36:05 00:14:40:19 small schools in remote places tend to do a very

256 00:14:40:21 00:14:44:15 good job and tend to be willing to bend over

257 00:14:44:17 00:14:48:06 backwards to help youngsters who have

258 00:14:48:08 00:14:49:06 special needs.

259 00:14:49:08 00:14:51:10 One of the things I'm going to mention that you

260 00:14:51:12 00:14:54:08 all didn't is that the special needs allowance

261 00:14:54:10 00:14:59:22 will also pay for, in certain circumstances, an

262 00:14:59:24 00:15:07:08 assigned, dedicated educational...I'm looking

263 00:15:07:10 00:15:09:07 for language here because there's a lot of debate

264 00:15:09:09 00:15:10:07 about the language.

265 00:15:10:09 00:15:13:18 But an educational assistant, to be dedicated

266 00:15:13:20 00:15:15:08 to one child.

267 00:15:15:10 00:15:19:02 This happens often in terms of youngsters who

268 00:15:19:04 00:15:23:07 are on the autistic spectrum or have

269 00:15:23:09 00:15:27:29 Down syndrome or have other kinds of fairly

270 00:15:28:01 00:15:31:15 handicapping delays.  
 271 00:15:31:17 00:15:34:14 But they can function in an immersion  
 setting if  
 272 00:15:34:16 00:15:36:29 they have an individual who is dedicated.  
 273 00:15:37:01 00:15:40:09 Now you can't hire somebody in the U.S.  
 274 00:15:40:11 00:15:43:15 and take them over there. You could.  
 275 00:15:43:17 00:15:45:15 They probably could pay a salary.  
 276 00:15:45:17 00:15:49:02 Most people hire someone locally who is an  
 277 00:15:49:04 00:15:53:13 educational assistant that is dedicated to a  
 278 00:15:53:15 00:15:55:04 particular youngster.  
 279 00:15:55:06 00:15:59:24 And many schools are willing to consider  
 280 00:15:59:26 00:16:03:10 youngsters they would not otherwise be able  
 to serve  
 281 00:16:03:12 00:16:09:24 if they do have an educational assistant.  
 282 00:16:09:26 00:16:13:27 The advantages of being overseas with an  
 283 00:16:13:29 00:16:20:13 educationally-challenged child are myriad  
 because  
 284 00:16:20:15 00:16:23:03 everybody is different.  
 285 00:16:23:05 00:16:25:27 People...the kids look different.  
 286 00:16:25:29 00:16:27:28 They're from different racial backgrounds.  
 287 00:16:28:00 00:16:30:08 They're from different language backgrounds.  
 288 00:16:30:10 00:16:33:03 Everybody has had different experiences.  
 289 00:16:33:05 00:16:35:16 They've lived in different places.  
 290 00:16:35:18 00:16:39:27 So our youngsters, who go into  
 international schools  
 291 00:16:39:29 00:16:43:15 in an immersion-type setting, as long as  
 their  
 292 00:16:43:17 00:16:50:28 educational needs can be met, benefit often  
 very, very much.  
 293 00:16:51:00 00:16:55:24 Also the classes tend to be much smaller  
 in most  
 294 00:16:55:26 00:16:56:24 international schools.  
 295 00:16:56:26 00:16:59:24 Wouldn't you say that's, you know...and  
 that for  
 296 00:16:59:26 00:17:03:25 some youngsters is all they need if they have  
 a  
 297 00:17:03:27 00:17:05:16 learning disability.  
 298 00:17:05:18 00:17:06:16 Sir?  
 299 00:17:06:18 00:17:08:16 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** Some of the things you're  
 going  
 300 00:17:08:18 00:17:11:05 over right now are the positives that I've  
 heard  
 301 00:17:11:07 00:17:13:10 going overseas, and sometimes the challenge  
 302 00:17:13:12 00:17:15:27 when we go through to get our posts cleared  
 and  
 303 00:17:15:29 00:17:18:21 they're looking at that IEP so closely, and I  
 304 00:17:18:23 00:17:21:15 think that what you're talking about needs to  
 be  
 305 00:17:21:17 00:17:23:16 reconciled sometimes when we're getting our  
 posts cleared.  
 306 00:17:23:18 00:17:25:19 For instance, my daughter wouldn't need to  
 be pulled  
 307 00:17:25:21 00:17:30:00 out as often...when I go...I travel a lot.  
 308 00:17:30:02 00:17:32:11 I've been to some of these small posts.  
 309 00:17:32:13 00:17:34:13 Class size is nine kids.  
 310 00:17:34:15 00:17:36:12 There's two helpers in the classroom with it.  
 311 00:17:36:14 00:17:39:04 But then I'm being told no, because the school



312 00:17:39:06 00:17:41:18 can't pull my daughter out for the hour and  
a half a day.  
313 00:17:41:20 00:17:43:03 My daughter wouldn't need to be pulled out  
because  
314 00:17:43:05 00:17:45:20 of the fact that...like all the other things  
that  
315 00:17:45:22 00:17:47:14 you're talking about.  
316 00:17:47:16 00:17:49:27 Again, some of the social issues don't pop  
up as much.  
317 00:17:49:29 00:17:52:08 My daughter has got a delay.  
318 00:17:52:10 00:17:54:21 She's hyper-aware of her own issues, but  
when  
319 00:17:54:23 00:17:57:09 you're mixing it with children that are  
coming  
320 00:17:57:11 00:17:59:12 that are having a hard time mastering the  
321 00:17:59:14 00:18:01:27 language that didn't learn math the same  
way, usually  
322 00:18:01:29 00:18:04:07 the positives that we've heard from the  
rest of my  
323 00:18:04:09 00:18:06:22 colleagues...but, and it's a challenge to  
get there.  
324 00:18:06:24 00:18:09:17 I wasn't able to get...I got accepted into  
the  
325 00:18:09:19 00:18:11:27 schools in Africa, but very reluctant, and  
State  
326 00:18:11:29 00:18:13:27 MED wouldn't clear me.  
327 00:18:13:29 00:18:15:25 And here were my arguments...the very ones  
328 00:18:15:27 00:18:17:18 you're making were my arguments back there.  
329 00:18:17:20 00:18:20:03 So I ask that that gets reconciled because I  
don't  
330 00:18:20:05 00:18:22:06 care if there's a great math specialist at  
post,  
331 00:18:22:08 00:18:24:11 the benefits that my daughter's going to  
have  
332 00:18:24:13 00:18:26:23 in general overall at these small schools, is  
333 00:18:26:25 00:18:29:12 going to maybe outweigh that, and also allow  
Dad  
334 00:18:29:14 00:18:32:07 and Mom to spend a little bit more time  
335 00:18:32:09 00:18:34:18 concentrating with her one-on-one at home  
using  
336 00:18:34:20 00:18:37:15 the tutoring tools, and to be honest with you,  
337 00:18:37:17 00:18:40:04 probably a better environment than getting  
338 00:18:40:06 00:18:43:04 lost in the massive-I'm in Prince William  
County,  
339 00:18:43:06 00:18:46:12 massive machine that's very well-funded  
340 00:18:46:14 00:18:47:23 but not always targeted the best, so...  
341 00:18:47:25 00:18:50:07 **DR. WARD:** I could not agree more. You have  
articulated.  
342 00:18:50:09 00:18:52:27 I am so glad that you're here because you  
could not  
343 00:18:52:29 00:18:56:04 have articulated my philosophy any more.  
344 00:18:56:06 00:18:58:25 I brought up six children in  
international...or four  
345 00:18:58:27 00:19:00:27 children in international schools.  
346 00:19:00:29 00:19:04:09 I currently have 6 grandchildren in  
international schools.  
347 00:19:04:11 00:19:08:25 And I believe that you get a really, really

fine

348 00:19:08:27 00:19:12:22 education and that they can deal with all

349 00:19:12:24 00:19:16:09 different sorts of challenges much more

350 00:19:16:11 00:19:19:04 effectively than a large machine.

351 00:19:19:06 00:19:21:10 And, you know, there are some very good  
school

352 00:19:21:12 00:19:22:17 divisions in the U.S.

353 00:19:22:19 00:19:23:21 I've worked for several.

354 00:19:23:23 00:19:27:04 I've had my children, from time to time,  
when we had

355 00:19:27:06 00:19:29:04 Washington assignments, attend several.

356 00:19:29:06 00:19:33:08 There's nothing to say that they are bad.

357 00:19:33:10 00:19:36:27 But they spend...they have huge numbers and  
they

358 00:19:36:29 00:19:40:21 spend time dealing with filling in government  
paperwork.

359 00:19:40:23 00:19:42:27 Now we're really glad that we have the  
federal

360 00:19:42:29 00:19:47:08 legislation to protect our special needs  
children.

361 00:19:47:10 00:19:50:10 But, on the other hand, school personnel spend

362 00:19:50:12 00:19:53:22 huge amounts of time filling in paper and  
forms.

363 00:19:54:18 00:19:57:20 Now, one of the things I was going to  
suggest is

364 00:19:57:22 00:20:01:29 that somehow you find a sympathetic person.

365 00:20:02:01 00:20:04:16 If you're going from a U.S.

366 00:20:04:18 00:20:07:29 public school overseas, you find a sympathetic

367 00:20:08:01 00:20:11:18 person in your child's school who will write

368 00:20:11:20 00:20:14:24 recommendations for your child in English,  
as

369 00:20:14:26 00:20:17:17 opposed to in "bureaucratese."

370 00:20:17:19 00:20:22:07 Seriously, that they will take that IEP and  
they

371 00:20:22:09 00:20:26:01 will make a list of recommendations.

372 00:20:26:03 00:20:28:12 And some of the recommendations are so

373 00:20:28:14 00:20:33:12 straightforward, such as, "Johnny has ADHD.

374 00:20:33:14 00:20:36:12 It's good for him to sit in the front of the  
classroom."

375 00:20:36:14 00:20:37:12 You know, how hard is that?

376 00:20:37:14 00:20:39:12 Schools are usually willing to do this.

377 00:20:39:14 00:20:44:09 But if they get this huge legalistic  
document,

378 00:20:44:11 00:20:46:07 very often they're not.

379 00:20:46:09 00:20:47:19 *(off microphone audience comment)*

380 00:20:47:21 00:20:50:26 **DR. WARD:** Yeah, absolutely.

381 00:20:50:28 00:20:53:23 If necessary, find a consultant.

382 00:20:53:25 00:20:54:23 Tracy.

383 00:20:54:25 00:20:55:23 Tracy's here.

384 00:20:55:25 00:21:02:09 This is the, I think, most insightful  
organization.

385 00:21:02:11 00:21:05:02 I am just...

386 00:21:05:04 00:21:10:06 this is the International Diagnostic Services.

387 00:21:10:08 00:21:13:21 And they provide a lot of special education  
services

388 00:21:13:23 00:21:17:13 to schools overseas, but they also could  
take your

389 00:21:17:15 00:21:22:14 IEP and turn it into practical classroom  
 390 00:21:22:16 00:21:25:10 recommendations that will...and I'm sure  
 that  
 391 00:21:25:12 00:21:27:14 there are other school psychologists and other  
 392 00:21:27:16 00:21:30:02 people in private practice that you can get  
 referrals  
 393 00:21:30:04 00:21:31:02 from the Department.  
 394 00:21:32:09 00:21:34:19 But it really is important to take that  
 legal  
 395 00:21:34:21 00:21:39:23 document and have somebody turn it into  
 realistic  
 396 00:21:39:25 00:21:41:28 recommendations.  
 397 00:21:42:00 00:21:46:16 And you also need to sort of figure out how  
 to make  
 398 00:21:46:18 00:21:49:05 clear that there is additional funding that  
 399 00:21:49:07 00:21:52:28 goes with your child, the special needs  
 allowance,  
 400 00:21:53:00 00:21:57:01 so that if there are some things that do,  
 in fact,  
 401 00:21:57:03 00:22:02:01 cost money, from simple software to a dedicated  
 402 00:22:02:03 00:22:07:07 aide that that can be paid for through your  
 special  
 403 00:22:07:09 00:22:12:08 needs allowance because the schools really, by  
 and  
 404 00:22:12:10 00:22:15:20 large, want to do the right thing.  
 405 00:22:15:22 00:22:18:11 They really want to have all kinds of  
 youngsters  
 406 00:22:18:13 00:22:22:04 included in the schools.  
 407 00:22:22:06 00:22:24:25 They are concerned about whether they can  
 afford to  
 408 00:22:24:27 00:22:28:28 do it or whether they can find provide  
 appropriate services.  
 409 00:22:29:00 00:22:31:11 They're not going to be a babysitting  
 service and  
 410 00:22:31:13 00:22:34:06 they're not going to have a full special  
 education  
 411 00:22:34:08 00:22:37:16 program within the school.  
 412 00:22:38:09 00:22:40:23 But if you can work with the Office of  
 Overseas  
 413 00:22:40:25 00:22:45:29 Schools, with your REO and with MED, you can  
 find a  
 414 00:22:46:01 00:22:52:26 way to put together a compromise proposition  
 415 00:22:52:28 00:22:57:07 that is acceptable to a school in your region.  
 416 00:22:57:09 00:23:00:18 Or if you're going to a large metropolitan  
 area,  
 417 00:23:00:20 00:23:06:13 like Toronto or Johannesburg-Pretoria or  
 London,  
 418 00:23:06:15 00:23:14:16 you can look for other options in the local  
 community.  
 419 00:23:14:18 00:23:17:04 So there really are...there's a range.  
 420 00:23:17:06 00:23:19:13 You are not going to be able to go to every  
 post  
 421 00:23:19:15 00:23:20:25 you would like to go.  
 422 00:23:20:27 00:23:23:02 This is something that some of us in the  
 Foreign  
 423 00:23:23:04 00:23:25:15 Service have difficulty accepting, you know,  
 424 00:23:25:17 00:23:27:26 because we all know about "career

enhancing" and so

425 00:23:27:28 00:23:29:16 forth and so on.

426 00:23:29:18 00:23:33:17 You're not going to be able to go to every single post.

427 00:23:33:19 00:23:38:28 But the opportunities are very surprising.

428 00:23:39:00 00:23:43:03 There are good choices for your child or children in

429 00:23:43:05 00:23:46:27 places that you might find highly unlikely.

430 00:23:47:12 00:23:49:27 And this is what the six Regional Education

431 00:23:49:29 00:23:53:19 Officers in the Office of Overseas Schools are

432 00:23:53:21 00:23:56:01 devoted to helping you find.

433 00:23:56:03 00:23:58:01 And they're not just reading the school's

434 00:23:58:03 00:24:00:18 description of itself.

435 00:24:00:20 00:24:01:18 They've been there.

436 00:24:01:20 00:24:02:26 They've been on the ground.

437 00:24:02:28 00:24:04:04 They've visited classes.

438 00:24:04:06 00:24:06:04 They've talked to administrators.

439 00:24:06:06 00:24:09:17 And they will tell you the truth, because we don't

440 00:24:09:19 00:24:12:24 want to get you into a situation that's not going

441 00:24:12:26 00:24:13:24 to work for you.

442 00:24:14:24 00:24:16:18 I have an example to give you.

443 00:24:16:20 00:24:19:10 The yahoo group is absolutely wonderful and I

444 00:24:19:12 00:24:21:24 strongly recommend that you join it.

445 00:24:21:26 00:24:25:14 However, do not assume that because a person,

446 00:24:25:16 00:24:31:08 a parent, on the yahoo group recommends a certain school

447 00:24:31:10 00:24:34:20 because their child who, let's say, is

448 00:24:34:22 00:24:37:25 developmentally delayed, did very well there.

449 00:24:40:01 00:24:42:13 Your child may be developmentally delayed,

450 00:24:42:15 00:24:44:23 but in all kinds of different ways.

451 00:24:44:25 00:24:48:07 You can't assume that something that was good

452 00:24:48:09 00:24:52:29 for a youngster with a particular diagnosis that

453 00:24:53:01 00:24:57:21 may also relate to your child is going to

454 00:24:57:23 00:25:00:07 necessarily work out for you.

455 00:25:00:09 00:25:03:10 You need to talk to the REO, who will help you,

456 00:25:03:12 00:25:07:11 perhaps put you in touch with people at the school directly.

457 00:25:07:13 00:25:10:14 And we do that back and forth in an unofficial

458 00:25:10:16 00:25:14:13 way, and sometimes we can advocate for you.

459 00:25:14:15 00:25:18:15 Perhaps we can brainstorm ways that the school can

460 00:25:18:17 00:25:20:15 meet your child's needs, even though their

461 00:25:20:17 00:25:22:15 immediate reaction is going to be a no.

462 00:25:22:17 00:25:23:18 So don't give up.

463 00:25:23:20 00:25:28:04 Work with your REO and work with MED to see if

464 00:25:28:06 00:25:30:19 you can't work out a plan that is good for your

465 00:25:30:21 00:25:34:11 career, that is good for your family, and most

466 00:25:34:13 00:25:37:29 important of all, is good for your child.

467 00:25:38:01 00:25:42:10 That's what is ultimately going to be an important,

468 00:25:42:12 00:25:45:02 important part of the career decisions that  
 you make.  
 469 00:25:46:04 00:25:48:08 I'd also like to say from personal  
 experience that  
 470 00:25:48:10 00:25:51:01 sometimes posts that you think would be  
 absolutely  
 471 00:25:51:03 00:25:54:05 terrible for your career end up being the  
 best  
 472 00:25:54:07 00:25:56:05 thing that could have ever happened.  
 473 00:25:56:07 00:25:58:03 You replace somebody who was not very good  
 and then  
 474 00:25:58:05 00:25:59:06 you're a star.  
 475 00:25:59:08 00:26:06:10 It's...don't think that the corridor gossip is  
 476 00:26:06:12 00:26:09:27 necessarily correct about what's career  
 enhancing.  
 477 00:26:09:29 00:26:15:20 And I think that you can make the career  
 work for  
 478 00:26:15:22 00:26:17:13 your family.  
 479 00:26:17:15 00:26:20:22 But you will have to make decisions along  
 the way,  
 480 00:26:20:24 00:26:23:25 and sometimes take a bit of a chance, but  
 481 00:26:23:27 00:26:25:25 that's...we're all risk-takers anyway or  
 we  
 482 00:26:25:27 00:26:29:21 wouldn't be in this line of work.  
 483 00:26:29:23 00:26:35:07 I want to show you some of the resources  
 that will be  
 484 00:26:35:09 00:26:37:22 available to you this afternoon.  
 485 00:26:37:24 00:26:41:03 Make sure...make sure that you get them all.  
 486 00:26:41:05 00:26:43:10 Kris, are they all online?  
 487 00:26:44:08 00:26:51:23 (off microphone audience comments)  
 488 00:26:51:25 00:26:55:04 **DR. WARD:** I have the...yeah.  
 489 00:26:55:06 00:26:57:06 I would take the hard copies too because you  
 never know.  
 490 00:26:57:08 00:26:59:08 I've had families who've gotten to post  
 and haven't  
 491 00:26:59:10 00:27:05:00 had internet in their house for six months  
 and  
 492 00:27:05:02 00:27:07:05 they couldn't use the office internet because  
 493 00:27:07:07 00:27:11:26 the working spouse was always too busy with  
 work.  
 494 00:27:11:28 00:27:14:05 So, you know, I would get hard copies of  
 these.  
 495 00:27:14:07 00:27:19:11 This is *Parent Advocacy in International  
 Schools*.  
 496 00:27:19:13 00:27:21:11 It goes through some of the things that we've  
 497 00:27:21:13 00:27:24:04 talked about this morning and other ideas,  
 written  
 498 00:27:24:06 00:27:28:06 by two international special educators,  
 Ochan  
 499 00:27:28:08 00:27:31:06 and Bill Powell, who are considered to be  
 the  
 500 00:27:31:08 00:27:33:24 absolute top in the field.  
 501 00:27:33:26 00:27:39:06 And this is the *Overseas American  
 Sponsored*  
 502 00:27:39:08 00:27:41:18 *Elementary and Secondary Schools*.  
 503 00:27:41:20 00:27:45:08 Now, "sponsored" is a vocabulary word that  
 I've

504 00:27:45:10 00:27:48:05 never liked very much because it sounds like  
 505 00:27:48:07 00:27:50:16 we...it's like the DoD schools.  
 506 00:27:50:18 00:27:53:10 We don't sponsor them; we assist them.  
 507 00:27:53:12 00:27:54:10 Okay?  
 508 00:27:54:12 00:27:57:21 These are the assisted schools.  
 509 00:27:57:23 00:28:01:04 These are not the only options, particularly  
 for  
 510 00:28:01:06 00:28:03:13 special ed kids.  
 511 00:28:03:15 00:28:07:00 And so you really need to make sure that  
 you contact  
 512 00:28:07:02 00:28:14:05 your REO and also consider...this is a CD  
 513 00:28:14:07 00:28:19:14 which is this year's CD that the REOs have put  
 514 00:28:19:16 00:28:23:03 together of resources available in  
 international  
 515 00:28:23:05 00:28:25:08 schools all around the world.  
 516 00:28:25:10 00:28:29:28 We do not have these today because this is  
 this year's.  
 517 00:28:30:00 00:28:35:05 Kris is currently... Kristin, go ahead, tell  
 us.  
 518 00:28:35:07 00:28:43:28 **MS. GRASSO:** *(off microphone comments)*  
 519 00:28:44:00 00:28:46:18 *(inaudible)* online at home.  
 520 00:28:46:20 00:28:49:08 It is the same both places, and it is not  
 true  
 521 00:28:49:10 00:28:52:26 of the in-depth information on the schools,  
 522 00:28:52:28 00:28:57:23 but the special needs is there on both sites.  
 523 00:28:57:25 00:29:01:07 The new one will be going up soon  
 [inaudible] last  
 524 00:29:01:09 00:29:05:00 school year [inaudible] look through it and say  
 525 00:29:05:02 00:29:12:04 and then verify.  
 526 00:29:12:06 00:29:15:25 **DR. WARD:** Okay, I'm just going to repeat  
 this for  
 527 00:29:15:27 00:29:17:28 our technological listeners.  
 528 00:29:18:00 00:29:20:21 And that is, Kris said, that the one online is  
 529 00:29:20:23 00:29:24:18 currently the last year's, but she is  
 editing at the  
 530 00:29:24:20 00:29:27:21 moment the new one and then that will go  
 online,  
 531 00:29:27:23 00:29:29:14 when Kris?  
 532 00:29:29:16 00:29:30:14 Very soon.  
 533 00:29:30:16 00:29:34:22 So this will give you information, not only  
 534 00:29:34:24 00:29:36:25 about the assisted schools, but about  
 schools  
 535 00:29:36:27 00:29:38:25 in the community that are not assisted.  
 536 00:29:39:08 00:29:41:06 And there are some excellent schools in  
 537 00:29:41:08 00:29:43:05 various places that we can't assist, for one  
 538 00:29:43:07 00:29:44:05 reason or another.  
 539 00:29:44:07 00:29:50:07 For example, Marymount School in Paris is a K-  
 8  
 540 00:29:50:09 00:29:53:10 English-language American curriculum school  
 that's  
 541 00:29:53:12 00:29:57:02 run by Sisters of the Sacred Heart, I  
 believe.  
 542 00:29:57:04 00:30:01:13 Because it has a religious affiliation, we  
 can't give  
 543 00:30:01:15 00:30:03:13 them U.S. government grants.  
 544 00:30:03:15 00:30:06:19 However, it's a fabulous school and many  
 American

545 00:30:06:21 00:30:11:11 parents who are not Catholic use Marymount School.  
 546 00:30:11:13 00:30:13:18 And it has a fine...off and on over the years,  
 547 00:30:13:20 00:30:16:28 it's had a particularly fine special education department.  
 548 00:30:17:00 00:30:22:23 So there are schools that we list here that are not  
 549 00:30:22:25 00:30:27:01 assisted schools but not because they're not good.  
 550 00:30:27:03 00:30:31:22 They might be host country national schools but in  
 551 00:30:31:24 00:30:34:01 English, or they might have a religious  
 552 00:30:34:03 00:30:38:11 affiliation, or for some other reason that's bureaucratic  
 553 00:30:38:13 00:30:42:09 rather than educational, they can't be listed.  
 554 00:30:42:11 00:30:47:23 Okay, the last thing I want to talk about, and  
 555 00:30:47:25 00:30:49:23 then I want to give you a chance to ask some  
 556 00:30:49:25 00:30:53:20 questions, is gifted and talented, which is a  
 557 00:30:53:22 00:30:58:15 really interesting area because it is not included  
 558 00:30:58:17 00:31:01:28 under special education because it is not included  
 559 00:31:02:00 00:31:07:16 under the federal legislation for special education.  
 560 00:31:07:18 00:31:11:25 But many youngsters are gifted and talented, and  
 561 00:31:11:27 00:31:14:06 some youngsters are dually exceptional.  
 562 00:31:14:08 00:31:17:21 They may be gifted and talented and also have a  
 563 00:31:17:23 00:31:19:08 challenge of some sort.  
 564 00:31:19:10 00:31:21:23 You can have gifted and talented and dyslexic  
 565 00:31:21:25 00:31:25:12 or...many youngsters who have Asperger's syndrome  
 566 00:31:25:14 00:31:28:08 are actually intellectually very gifted  
 567 00:31:28:10 00:31:30:05 in specific areas.  
 568 00:31:30:23 00:31:36:15 So we do have a gifted allowance, which is  
 569 00:31:36:17 00:31:41:03 monitored and...through our office rather than  
 570 00:31:41:05 00:31:43:20 through the Medical division because it's not  
 571 00:31:43:22 00:31:46:00 included in the medical clearance.  
 572 00:31:46:02 00:31:53:00 You can receive an amount of money, which is now what?  
 573 00:31:53:02 00:31:57:14 \$4,100 per school year, to support your child's  
 574 00:31:57:16 00:32:02:01 education, if their school says that they are  
 575 00:32:02:03 00:32:08:23 advanced farther than the school program, or they  
 576 00:32:08:25 00:32:12:19 were identified as gifted and talented in a U.S. school,  
 577 00:32:12:21 00:32:19:06 or they have been through a testing system  
 578 00:32:19:08 00:32:22:12 that is run through the Office of Overseas Schools.  
 579 00:32:22:14 00:32:30:08 So if you are overseas and your child...you believe  
 580 00:32:30:10 00:32:32:24 that your child is gifted, or the teacher,  
 581 00:32:32:26 00:32:34:28 administrator in the school has said that

your

582 00:32:35:00 00:32:37:26 child is advanced academically,  
583 00:32:37:28 00:32:40:23 educationally, talk to your REO about the  
steps  
584 00:32:40:25 00:32:42:25 that you will go through.  
585 00:32:42:27 00:32:45:00 You will start out with the Management Officer  
at  
586 00:32:45:02 00:32:48:09 post and you will be given an opportunity to  
have  
587 00:32:48:11 00:32:50:07 your child tested overseas.  
588 00:32:50:09 00:32:52:03 It's a paper and pencil test.  
589 00:32:52:05 00:32:54:10 They do not have to come back to the U.S.  
590 00:32:55:02 00:33:00:08 If you are in a U.S. school and your child has  
been identified,  
591 00:33:00:10 00:33:04:02 just bring that paperwork with you when  
you come to see  
592 00:33:04:04 00:33:07:01 your REO, or fax it to your REO, or get it to  
593 00:33:07:03 00:33:10:00 your REO one way or another, and we will  
get  
594 00:33:10:02 00:33:13:17 you the opportunity to use the gifted  
allowance.  
595 00:33:13:19 00:33:17:23 I'm not going to say too much about that  
but it is  
596 00:33:17:25 00:33:20:27 an area where most public school divisions,  
597 00:33:20:29 00:33:23:18 good public school divisions in the U.S.,  
do offer gifted  
598 00:33:23:20 00:33:28:02 services, and so we want to provide an  
opportunity  
599 00:33:28:04 00:33:31:12 for the Foreign Service youngsters who are  
600 00:33:31:14 00:33:35:11 assigned overseas to also have enrichment where  
they need it.  
601 00:33:35:13 00:33:37:10 And it can be online programs.  
602 00:33:37:12 00:33:40:12 It could be working in a museum locally.  
603 00:33:40:14 00:33:43:20 Could be a wide range of things.  
604 00:33:43:22 00:33:47:04 But you need to talk with your REO about  
that.  
605 00:33:47:06 00:33:50:18 And I want to particularly thank, this  
morning, the  
606 00:33:50:20 00:33:53:29 representatives from the other agencies  
for coming  
607 00:33:54:01 00:33:55:26 because it's very important.  
608 00:33:55:28 00:33:59:28 Often other agency folks who are assigned  
overseas  
609 00:34:00:02 00:34:04:21 are not...they...well, they didn't necessarily  
610 00:34:04:23 00:34:08:01 ask to be assigned overseas or didn't pick  
an  
611 00:34:08:03 00:34:12:03 internationally-mobile career and are very  
happy  
612 00:34:12:05 00:34:16:17 to go overseas, but they do need  
information.  
613 00:34:16:19 00:34:20:22 And the Office of Overseas Schools serves  
all of the  
614 00:34:20:24 00:34:23:08 foreign affairs agencies.  
615 00:34:23:10 00:34:25:21 David Cramer just thought he was going to  
sneak in,  
616 00:34:25:23 00:34:27:19 but he's not.  
617 00:34:27:21 00:34:29:20 David Cramer is in the back.



618 00:34:29:22 00:34:32:13 He's currently the Regional Education  
 Officer  
 619 00:34:32:15 00:34:35:02 for Africa, and was formerly the Education  
 620 00:34:35:04 00:34:37:18 Officer for Central and Eastern Europe, so he  
 will  
 621 00:34:37:20 00:34:39:02 be here...you're going to be here this  
 afternoon,  
 622 00:34:39:04 00:34:41:05 David, too?  
 623 00:34:41:07 00:34:43:11 We're hoping this afternoon that you will  
 624 00:34:43:13 00:34:46:03 seek out the table where the REOs are  
 sitting, get  
 625 00:34:46:05 00:34:49:17 your materials, and talk with the  
 Educational Officer  
 626 00:34:49:19 00:34:56:14 from your region about posts that you are  
 considering.  
 627 00:34:56:16 00:35:00:19 Also, please talk to some of the folks-  
 Tracy and  
 628 00:35:00:21 00:35:06:10 Erin-about technology and how technology  
 can help  
 629 00:35:06:12 00:35:09:27 your plan that you're putting together for  
 your  
 630 00:35:09:29 00:35:11:26 child or children.  
 631 00:35:11:28 00:35:16:08 I'm going to stop a few minutes...yes ma'am?  
 632 00:35:16:10 00:35:18:01 I'm sorry.  
 633 00:35:18:03 00:35:20:00 No, no, I'm going to stop...I'm a very  
 informal  
 634 00:35:20:02 00:35:23:18 person, as you can probably tell, so any  
 questions.  
 635 00:35:23:20 00:35:25:18 Let's do questions.  
 636 00:35:25:20 00:35:28:03 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** I was going to ask...you kind  
 of  
 637 00:35:28:05 00:35:30:15 alluded to this but if the gifted allowance  
 can be  
 638 00:35:30:17 00:35:32:07 stacked with SNEA and if there's any issues  
 639 00:35:32:09 00:35:33:11 [inaudible].  
 640 00:35:33:13 00:35:35:22 **DR. WARD:** Thank you, thank you.  
 641 00:35:35:24 00:35:37:15 Connie just brought me coffee.  
 642 00:35:37:17 00:35:39:18 If I seem tongue-tied, I think they gave  
 me decaf  
 643 00:35:39:20 00:35:41:25 coffee this morning in the hotel.  
 644 00:35:41:27 00:35:44:04 Yes, there's no reason why you could not get a  
 645 00:35:44:06 00:35:47:28 special needs education allowance and  
 646 00:35:48:00 00:35:50:23 a gifted allowance.  
 647 00:35:50:25 00:35:52:23 We recognize...the field recognizes that  
 youngsters  
 648 00:35:52:25 00:35:55:07 are dually exceptional, and they come sort of  
 from  
 649 00:35:55:09 00:35:59:17 different pots, so there should be no  
 problem at all.  
 650 00:35:59:19 00:36:02:05 And again, you might find a Management  
 Officer  
 651 00:36:02:07 00:36:07:04 overseas who might question...tell him to  
 652 00:36:07:06 00:36:11:01 talk to your REO and they'll explain it,  
 653 00:36:11:03 00:36:14:07 really, I mean, because we know that there  
 are many,  
 654 00:36:14:09 00:36:16:12 many children who are dually exceptional.  
 655 00:36:16:14 00:36:17:03 Sir? Jim.

656 00:36:17:05 00:36:19:10 **DR. JAMES BRUSH, CHILD PSYCHOLOGIST:**  
657 00:36:19:12 00:36:22:16 Of course the man who was asking this question  
has just left,  
658 00:36:22:18 00:36:26:12 but I want to introduce Tracy Ellis from the  
International  
659 00:36:26:14 00:36:30:05 Diagnostic Solutions because his issue was  
tailoring special  
660 00:36:30:07 00:36:33:12 education programs at specific schools and  
sometimes  
661 00:36:33:14 00:36:36:21 what you have in an IEP is not going to fit  
662 00:36:36:23 00:36:38:14 with a certain school.  
663 00:36:38:16 00:36:40:16 And we've been allowing the special needs  
664 00:36:40:18 00:36:42:28 allowance to pay for the services of the  
665 00:36:43:00 00:36:46:13 International Diagnostic Solutions to  
actually work  
666 00:36:46:15 00:36:49:17 with schools directly to tailor a special  
education  
667 00:36:49:19 00:36:52:02 program for a child.  
668 00:36:52:04 00:36:55:03 They'll even write what could be equivalent to  
an IEP  
669 00:36:55:05 00:37:00:11 and help to track the progress, and again,  
670 00:37:00:13 00:37:04:02 the special needs allowance will be allowed  
to pay for that.  
671 00:37:04:04 00:37:07:21 So if you have one of those situations  
where...  
672 00:37:07:23 00:37:10:25 unfortunately, it's hard to convince a school  
up front  
673 00:37:10:27 00:37:13:28 that we can probably work something out.  
674 00:37:14:00 00:37:15:27 That's been one of the rubs here and that's  
where  
675 00:37:15:29 00:37:17:29 the clearance process comes in.  
676 00:37:18:01 00:37:20:01 But perhaps if you tell a school that there is  
677 00:37:20:03 00:37:22:05 consultation available, that could help them  
678 00:37:22:07 00:37:24:29 tailor [inaudible].  
679 00:37:25:25 00:37:28:02 **DR. WARD:** Thank you. I didn't know that.  
680 00:37:28:04 00:37:30:06 See, that's one of the things that's happened  
in  
681 00:37:30:08 00:37:33:00 the two and a half years since I've left,  
which is  
682 00:37:33:02 00:37:36:26 so great because we're constantly devising new  
683 00:37:36:28 00:37:38:25 ways to provide programs.  
684 00:37:38:27 00:37:40:15 Tracy, why don't you say something?  
685 00:37:41:10 00:37:42:14 **TRACY ELLIS, INTERNATIONAL DIAGNOSTIC**  
**SOLUTIONS:**  
686 00:37:42:16 00:37:44:26 As an example, we're doing a lot of  
training.  
687 00:37:44:28 00:37:46:24 You didn't pick a particular grade, so  
688 00:37:46:26 00:37:49:04 whether it's one-to-one, shadow,  
paraprofessional,  
689 00:37:49:06 00:37:52:08 whatever your school [inaudible] providers,  
but  
690 00:37:52:10 00:37:55:17 if you have someone that is working with  
your child  
691 00:37:55:19 00:37:58:06 in the classroom, sometimes the schools  
692 00:37:58:08 00:38:00:13 bristle a little bit because it's one more  
693 00:38:00:15 00:38:02:12 adult in the classroom.  
694 00:38:02:14 00:38:05:03 What we're doing is, instead of just pulling

695 00:38:05:05 00:38:07:07 someone off the street that works with your  
child  
696 00:38:07:09 00:38:09:12 that doesn't understand learning needs,  
learning  
697 00:38:09:14 00:38:12:08 difficulties, we're training those people.  
698 00:38:12:10 00:38:15:12 So, for example, we have a program right  
now  
699 00:38:15:14 00:38:17:09 [inaudible] where I think we have six of  
700 00:38:17:11 00:38:19:15 those...they call them [inaudible], those  
701 00:38:19:17 00:38:21:24 one-to-ones, and we're teaching them about  
702 00:38:21:26 00:38:24:05 learning disabilities.  
703 00:38:24:07 00:38:26:13 What does it mean when a child has visual and  
motor problems?  
704 00:38:26:15 00:38:29:09 How do you manage a behavior in the  
classroom?  
705 00:38:29:11 00:38:31:23 And then we work on a weekly or every-other-  
week  
706 00:38:31:25 00:38:35:11 basis to coach them, so they're working with  
your  
707 00:38:35:13 00:38:37:23 child and so if your child is having  
problems with,  
708 00:38:37:25 00:38:40:29 let's say, some fine motor issues, we're  
training  
709 00:38:41:01 00:38:43:18 that [inaudible] person, that one-to-one,  
to  
710 00:38:43:20 00:38:46:00 actually work specifically on the fine motor  
problems  
711 00:38:46:02 00:38:47:27 your child is having.  
712 00:38:47:29 00:38:50:21 So it's not just blanket training, but we  
work on  
713 00:38:50:23 00:38:54:02 each case so your child will be getting...it's  
714 00:38:54:04 00:38:56:26 like having our special ed team working  
directly with  
715 00:38:56:28 00:39:00:08 your child on a regular basis.  
716 00:39:00:10 00:39:02:08 What we've heard from the schools, while  
initially,  
717 00:39:02:10 00:39:05:06 you know, they didn't understand how that  
would work,  
718 00:39:05:08 00:39:07:27 what we do is we reach out for a lot of  
feedback,  
719 00:39:07:29 00:39:10:18 and so right now they're saying, "This is  
amazing."  
720 00:39:10:20 00:39:13:10 The classroom teachers are happy because all  
of a sudden,  
721 00:39:13:12 00:39:15:15 they don't just have another random body  
722 00:39:15:17 00:39:17:29 in the classroom, but what's happening is  
those  
723 00:39:18:01 00:39:20:04 kids are now able to learn more effectively  
in their  
724 00:39:20:06 00:39:22:25 classroom and they're not having to pull  
from the  
725 00:39:22:27 00:39:25:08 general classroom.  
726 00:39:25:10 00:39:26:28 They can actually go through the regular  
academics.  
727 00:39:27:00 00:39:30:02 So that's just one way we're doing it, but if  
you  
728 00:39:30:04 00:39:33:27 give us a chance...at first schools might

seem a  
 729 00:39:33:29 00:39:36:17 little standoffish, but if you give us a  
 chance to  
 730 00:39:36:19 00:39:38:24 talk to them and they see that it's not  
 just a big  
 731 00:39:38:26 00:39:41:28 complicated IEP, it's something a lot easier  
 and  
 732 00:39:42:00 00:39:44:09 we can help them do it, it makes that  
 involvement  
 733 00:39:44:11 00:39:48:00 process a little easier and it's a better  
 outcome  
 734 00:39:48:02 00:39:49:25 for the kids.  
 735 00:39:49:27 00:39:52:01 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** Would you recommend that, as  
 736 00:39:52:03 00:39:54:04 we're starting the bidding process that we  
 reach out  
 737 00:39:54:06 00:39:56:13 to you as well as the REOs so that you can  
 kind of be  
 738 00:39:56:15 00:39:58:01 our advocates?  
 739 00:39:58:03 00:40:00:11 **MS. ELLIS:** I would say go through your REO  
 because  
 740 00:40:00:13 00:40:03:13 it's been through the REOs that a lot of our  
 services  
 741 00:40:03:15 00:40:06:07 have been put in place, so they have been  
 working  
 742 00:40:06:09 00:40:11:00 with Child and Family to...there's all sorts  
 of  
 743 00:40:11:02 00:40:13:14 angles of communication, but what happens  
 744 00:40:13:16 00:40:15:16 [crosstalk].  
 745 00:40:15:18 00:40:17:05 Right.  
 746 00:40:17:07 00:40:19:25 So, I would go... the REOs have been great  
 about  
 747 00:40:19:27 00:40:22:16 getting our services into this  
 whole...convincing  
 748 00:40:22:18 00:40:25:07 the school leader that we can help to make  
 sure a  
 749 00:40:25:09 00:40:27:26 student can attend, so.  
 750 00:40:27:28 00:40:29:27 And then, once you get that approval, then  
 what  
 751 00:40:29:29 00:40:32:17 we can do is we have a discussion with either  
 the  
 752 00:40:32:19 00:40:35:08 learning support person, the director, to  
 say,  
 753 00:40:35:10 00:40:37:08 "Hey, it's not as bad as you might think  
 it is.  
 754 00:40:37:10 00:40:39:16 This is actually pretty easy.  
 755 00:40:39:18 00:40:41:22 And the benefit is, your school is getting  
 756 00:40:41:24 00:40:45:00 professional development at the same  
 time."  
 757 00:40:45:02 00:40:46:16 **DR. WARD:** David.  
 758 00:40:46:18 00:40:47:18 **DAVID CRAMER, REGIONAL EDUCATION OFFICER, OOS:**  
 759 00:40:47:20 00:40:50:00 Well, yeah, I wanted to piggyback on what she  
 said.  
 760 00:40:50:02 00:40:53:07 One of the things that...I just mentioned to  
 Kris.  
 761 00:40:53:09 00:40:55:12 I think one of the things our office needs  
 to do is  
 762 00:40:55:14 00:40:57:16 we need to develop a flow chart for you

folks about

763 00:40:57:18 00:40:59:22 what to do, how to make this work, right,  
because

764 00:40:59:24 00:41:03:05 that was a really good question about where do  
we

765 00:41:03:07 00:41:05:26 go, who do we talk to first.

766 00:41:05:28 00:41:08:16 You need to talk to us first because we're the

767 00:41:08:18 00:41:13:04 ones that...we personally know the heads of  
the

768 00:41:13:06 00:41:15:13 schools, alright?

769 00:41:15:15 00:41:18:17 So, before you're going to be able to get  
anything

770 00:41:18:19 00:41:21:13 happening...in other words, it's a complicated  
process,

771 00:41:21:15 00:41:23:04 I understand.

772 00:41:23:06 00:41:25:22 The folks in the Child and Family Program  
Office are

773 00:41:25:24 00:41:28:03 the only ones that can actually authorize the

774 00:41:28:05 00:41:32:06 funds, but we're the ones that know the  
schools.

775 00:41:32:08 00:41:36:02 So, for you to get started, you would want to  
talk to us.

776 00:41:36:04 00:41:39:05 We work with them all the time.

777 00:41:39:07 00:41:41:10 Once the funding gets approved and we can put

778 00:41:41:12 00:41:43:25 something together, then we can get...or  
even in

779 00:41:43:27 00:41:46:20 the process, get Tracy and her team involved.

780 00:41:46:22 00:41:49:08 And it really has worked very well, so  
that's

781 00:41:49:10 00:41:51:08 something we need to do, put it together  
so that

782 00:41:51:10 00:41:53:20 you guys would know who to talk to first.

783 00:41:54:07 00:41:55:24 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** (off microphone comments) I

784 00:41:55:26 00:42:00:22 don't know how many of you have already been  
overseas

785 00:42:00:24 00:42:02:20 with a special needs kid.

786 00:42:02:22 00:42:04:13 I have.

787 00:42:04:15 00:42:06:12 When you do get approved by a school,  
oftentimes

788 00:42:06:14 00:42:09:03 once you get there, it's a totally different  
story.

789 00:42:09:05 00:42:11:07 **DR. WARD:** Exactly.

790 00:42:11:09 00:42:13:17 I have one other thing to say, and it's mainly

791 00:42:13:19 00:42:16:08 because the Family Liaison Office rep is not  
coming

792 00:42:16:10 00:42:18:25 until this afternoon.

793 00:42:18:27 00:42:22:28 Boarding school may sound like a very far  
stretch if

794 00:42:23:00 00:42:25:26 you have a preschool child with special  
needs.

795 00:42:25:28 00:42:28:18 However, there is an allowance that Jim

796 00:42:28:20 00:42:33:12 referred to earlier, that will pay for a  
boarding

797 00:42:33:14 00:42:36:10 school at a high school level if you have a

798 00:42:36:12 00:42:41:25 special needs child that needs special  
resources or

799 00:42:41:27 00:42:44:27 you're at a post that does not have a high

school.

800 00:42:44:29 00:42:48:09 Some of the...the FLO office is responsible  
for  
801 00:42:48:11 00:42:52:05 providing information about that, but it is a  
802 00:42:52:07 00:42:54:26 wonderful opportunity because there are some  
803 00:42:54:28 00:42:58:16 very, very excellent high schools that are  
804 00:42:58:18 00:43:01:14 specialized for youngsters with particular  
kinds of  
805 00:43:01:16 00:43:03:28 special needs.  
806 00:43:04:00 00:43:06:25 And it's such...for some of these kids,  
it's such a  
807 00:43:06:27 00:43:10:06 wonderful chance to be with other kids that  
have  
808 00:43:10:08 00:43:15:02 challenges like they do and strengths like they  
do,  
809 00:43:15:04 00:43:18:24 and so keep the Family Liaison Office  
810 00:43:18:26 00:43:23:07 in...FLO...or the Education Officer in  
811 00:43:23:09 00:43:26:03 FLO...that's that coffee I lacked this  
morning...the  
812 00:43:26:05 00:43:30:16 Education Officer in FLO in mind for  
information on  
813 00:43:30:18 00:43:33:10 boarding schools.  
814 00:43:33:12 00:43:35:23 And also they often have information on  
summer  
815 00:43:35:25 00:43:37:28 programs that are in the DC area or in  
other areas  
816 00:43:38:00 00:43:39:13 if you're going to be in the States.  
817 00:43:39:15 00:43:41:04 Yes, ma'am.  
818 00:43:41:06 00:43:43:08 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** (off microphone comments)  
819 00:43:43:10 00:43:48:03 I really want to hear from parents.  
820 00:43:48:05 00:43:53:01 My question was actually related to  
[inaudible].  
821 00:43:53:03 00:43:58:26 However, if I'm trying to get Career  
Services to  
822 00:43:58:28 00:44:01:28 advocate for the school for the post that I'm  
823 00:44:02:00 00:44:07:02 going to, could I then tap SNEA now to  
advocate?  
824 00:44:07:04 00:44:09:17 **DR. BRUSH:** I think you could get someone like  
825 00:44:09:19 00:44:12:10 David Cramer or another Education Officer to  
talk  
826 00:44:12:12 00:44:14:24 to the school and say, "We have this in our  
back  
827 00:44:14:26 00:44:17:11 pocket if you need it.  
828 00:44:17:13 00:44:20:03 If you need that kind of support cover this  
program,  
829 00:44:20:05 00:44:22:14 we have this kind of service available.  
830 00:44:22:16 00:44:25:03 That's the way that would work.  
831 00:44:26:06 00:44:27:27 **EMILY M. KUCHLER, LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL  
WORKER,**  
832 00:44:27:29 00:44:30:25 ... if you get an assignment  
833 00:44:30:27 00:44:35:08 overseas and [inaudible] But there's a  
conversation  
834 00:44:35:10 00:44:38:21 because, as you can hear, there's different  
parties  
835 00:44:38:23 00:44:41:21 in the process.  
836 00:44:41:23 00:44:53:26 [inaudible]  
837 00:44:55:01 00:44:56:22 **DR. WARD:** People have said that the Office of

838 00:44:56:24 00:44:58:25 Overseas Schools and MED never talk to each other.

839 00:44:58:27 00:45:02:00 We have each other on speed-dial, really, constantly.

840 00:45:02:02 00:45:04:15 So we're all working together to pull this

841 00:45:04:17 00:45:07:15 together with you and for you.

842 00:45:07:17 00:45:09:29 So don't get discouraged because you've got a team

843 00:45:10:01 00:45:11:24 out there.

844 00:45:12:23 00:45:15:11 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** That flow chart idea...you

845 00:45:15:13 00:45:17:27 guys...once I contacted you, schools all the sudden...

846 00:45:17:29 00:45:20:01 that were taking four or five weeks to get

847 00:45:20:03 00:45:22:07 back to me, to write back to me...but, I hadn't gone

848 00:45:22:09 00:45:24:12 through this process before, so I'm just

849 00:45:24:14 00:45:26:18 randomly emailing schools and, you know, the Medical

850 00:45:26:20 00:45:28:27 Officer out there.

851 00:45:28:29 00:45:31:03 "Hello, my name is...this is my situation."

852 00:45:31:05 00:45:32:25 And it's kind of like we're re-inventing the

853 00:45:32:27 00:45:34:26 wheel every time.

854 00:45:34:28 00:45:37:04 I know that there's people that have more experience

855 00:45:37:06 00:45:39:15 that have been through the process before or have

856 00:45:39:17 00:45:41:21 kids that are already going there.

857 00:45:41:23 00:45:43:18 And, you know, CFP hooked me up with people that

858 00:45:43:20 00:45:45:07 were already in the process.

859 00:45:45:09 00:45:47:12 That helped as well.

860 00:45:47:14 00:45:48:29 But a flow chart would be outstanding.

861 00:45:49:01 00:45:50:27 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** I've been through this process

862 00:45:50:29 00:45:52:15 four times and this is the first time we've even

863 00:45:52:17 00:45:55:03 heard of an REO, and I have been sending emails to schools.

864 00:45:55:05 00:45:57:16 **DR. WARD:** That's not good.

865 00:45:57:18 00:45:59:26 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** Basically doing what he said.

866 00:45:59:28 00:46:02:00 And I would feel sometimes that the only reason why

867 00:46:02:02 00:46:03:18 I'd get approval from schools is that I would

868 00:46:03:20 00:46:05:17 mention the SNEA.

869 00:46:05:19 00:46:07:05 Listen, you don't have to provide everything.

870 00:46:07:07 00:46:08:28 I have a pool of money I can pull from and provide

871 00:46:09:00 00:46:10:20 this therapist and that therapist.

872 00:46:10:22 00:46:12:22 We just need you to accommodate us.

873 00:46:12:24 00:46:15:13 **DR. WARD:** Are you with State?

874 00:46:15:15 00:46:17:06 **AUDIENCE MEMBER:** Yeah.

875 00:46:17:08 00:46:19:14 **HOST:** Alright, so, I want to let you know...

876 00:46:19:16 00:46:21:27 **DR. WARD:** Anyway, now you know.

877 00:46:21:29 00:46:23:07 **HOST:** You'll have another opportunity to talk to

878 00:46:23:09 00:46:25:08 both the REOs, talk to Pam, Office of Overseas Schools, CFP.

879 00:46:25:10 00:46:27:13 You'll also have a chance this afternoon to  
hear  
880 00:46:27:15 00:46:29:28 from parents who have raised their kids  
881 00:46:30:00 00:46:31:27 overseas, so if you still have questions,  
there is  
882 00:46:31:29 00:46:34:01 still time to get them answered.  
883 00:46:34:03 00:46:35:28 Right now, we're going to take a five-minute  
884 00:46:36:00 00:46:36:28 bio-break to give us a second to set up for  
the  
885 00:46:37:00 00:46:37:28 case studies.  
886 00:46:38:00 00:46:40:08 So if you can just come back here at 11:25,  
we'll  
887 00:46:40:10 00:46:42:28 be ready to go.  
888 00:46:43:00 00:46:44:28 ###